

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 USSS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 /060 W

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O 221300Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 045

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MI, ZA

SUBJECT: WILLINGNESS OF TIM GIBBS TO TRAVEL TO LUSAKA
TO TALK WITH THE SECRETARY

FOLLOWING CABLE RECEIVED TODAY FROM SALISBURY:

QUOTE...I AM PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO LUSAKA TO MEET
YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE IF YOU CONSIDER THIS TO BE
WORTHWHILE PLEASE ADVISE REGARDS SIGNED TIM GIBBS
RHODESIA PARTY...UNQUOTE.

BY CHANCE I WAS PLACED NEXT TO GIBBS AT PRESIDENT BANDA'S
STATE DINNER LAST JULY 6. HE WAS GUEST OF GOM ON THAT
OCCASION. I FOUND HIM TO BE AN INTELLIGENT, LIBERAL MINDED
MAN WHO ARTICULATEDLY ARGUES THE VIEWS OF THE ANTI-SMITH
WHITE MODERATES. GIBBS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS HAS TALKED
SEVERAL TIMES WITH SENIOR BRITISH OFFICIALS ON RHODESIAN
QUESTION. ACCORDING TO MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE HERE HE IS
RESPECTED AS A PERSON BUT DEEMED TO HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE
IN THE PRESENT SITUATION. ALSO, BRITISH HAVE WISHED TO AVOID
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POSSIBILITY GIVING ANY IMPRESSION TO BLACK LEADERS THAT A

WHITE, MODERATE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE VIEWED BY THEM TO BE
ACCEPTABLE AS SUCCESSOR TO SMITH.

COMMENT: PARTICULARLY IF SECRETARY ON TRIP TALKS WITH
VARIOUS LEADERS, BOTH WHITE AND BLACK, RE RHODESIA
SITUATION I WOULD RECOMMEND HE AGREES TO SEE GIBBS BUT
WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT A MUST OR TOP PRIORITY. PLEASE
ADVISE.
STEVENSON

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NNN

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